

Decision 2019/6

Revised mandate of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision on the establishment of the Task Force on Emission Inventories (ECE/EB.AIR/29, para. 34 (d)),

Acknowledging the recent achievements of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, which include:

(a) Major revisions of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)/European Environment Agency Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook (EMEP/European Environment Agency Guidebook)¹ used for the estimation and reporting of national emissions (published in 2016);

(b) Holding regular meetings of the Task Force expert network to harmonize emission factors, establish methodologies for the evaluation of emission data and projections and identify problems related to emissions reporting; supporting initiatives to continually improve the quality of emission inventory data, such as the annual emission inventory review process;

(c) Improving cooperation and collaborative working with stakeholder groups within the Convention, to ensure that the outputs from the Task Force expert network continue to better meet users' needs;

(d) Supporting the implementation of the reporting requirements specified in the Convention's emission reporting guidelines, including providing expert guidance to the Executive Body and the Implementation Committee on the adjustment application and review procedures established under the 2012 amended Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol).

Recognizing the need to update the mandate of the Task Force to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention, as well as its strategic priorities as set out in the following documents:

(a) The long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex);

(b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;²

(c) The policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4).

Welcoming the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by Finland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union,

1. *Adopts* the revised mandate of the Task Force as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Task Force to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Decides* that:

(a) The lead country or countries have the responsibility for leading and coordinating the ongoing work and tasks of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for

¹ See <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/emep-eea-guidebook-2016>

² See Rob Maas and Pering Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016) and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 – North America* (2016).

communicating with participating experts, for maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the activities, work, meetings and participants of the Task Force, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks;

(b) The Task Force is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, and reporting thereon, as well as for keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work;

(c) The Task Force will be comprised of subject matter experts from the Parties to the Convention, acting in their personal capacity;

(d) Meetings will be open to representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations, researchers, industry associations and other relevant organizations. Co-Chairs are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force. Meeting reports will reflect the views of all participants to the extent practicable;

(e) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. In that event, the withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for the operations of the Task Force are provided to the appropriate country or person(s).

Annex

Revised mandate of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections

1. The Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections will continue to assist EMEP by providing sound scientific support to the Convention and its Parties concerning the reporting of air pollutant emissions and projections data.

2. The Task Force will report on its activities and deliverables to the Steering Body to EMEP.

3. The functions of the Task Force are to:

(a) Develop further the EMEP/European Environment Agency Guidebook methodologies by supporting work that provides updated information from literature and by liaising with other projects; ensure regular updating of the maintenance and improvement plan for the EMEP/European Environment Agency Guidebook, with a view to publishing major updates every three to four years;

(b) Maintain and coordinate the activities of an expert network on emissions inventories and projections, to facilitate technical discussions between experts on a range of different topics related to air pollutant emissions;

(c) Hold regular meetings of the Task Force and its expert panels, to provide a technical forum for the expert network to share best practice and exchange information on national and international activities on emission inventories and projections. This includes initiatives to: harmonize emission factors; establish methodologies for the evaluation of emission data and projections; and identify problems related to emissions reporting and recommended solutions;

(d) Support Parties in implementing the reporting requirements of the Convention's emission reporting guidelines. This includes supporting: initiatives to improve the quality of emission inventory data, such as the annual emission inventory review process; and the adjustment application and review procedures established under the amended Gothenburg Protocol through the provision of expert guidance;

(e) Undertake specific activities and initiatives within the emissions inventory technical area, including:

- (i) Updating the guidance for adjustments under the Gothenburg Protocol, if required, with comments provided by Parties and as instructed by the Executive Body;
 - (ii) Reviewing the need to update the methods and procedures for emission inventory reviews and ensuring continued alignment with activities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- (f) Support the Convention's capacity-building activities in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as resources allow. This includes holding specific meetings with experts from these regions at meetings of the Task Force and contributing to in-country capacity-building and training activities;
- (g) Cooperate closely with other partners within the Convention, in particular, the EMEP centres and task forces, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues through, among other things, joint workshops and contributions to joint activities;
- (h) Collaborate with external partners, – such as the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Minamata Convention on Mercury – on specific technical issues, as necessary;
- (i) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by the EMEP Steering Body and the Executive Body.